

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MC-02 PM-07 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 TRSE-00 AEC-11

COME-00 EB-11 /104 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 057515

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: P/M

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON US CUSTOMS SEIZURE OF
HELICOPTER PARTS DESTINED FOR EL SALVADOR

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND REPLIES HAVE BEEN PREPARED
BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR USE AT THE NOON BRIEFING ON MARCH 22.
ADDRESSEE POSTS MAY DRAW ON THIS INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE.

QUESTION: CAN THE DEPARTMENT TELL THE PRESS THE REASONS
FOR THE SEIZURE BY U.S. CUSTOMS AT LOS ANGELES OF
HELICOPTER PARTS THAT WERE READY FOR EXPORT TO EL SALVADOR
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BY THE PATTERSON COMPANY?

SUGGESTED REPLY: THE HELICOPTER PARTS WERE SEIZED BY U.S. CUSTOMS BECAUSE OF THE FAILURE OF THE PATTERSON COMPANY TO APPLY FOR AND OBTAIN THE REQUIRED EXPORT LICENSES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. SUCH A LICENSE IS REQUIRED FOR EXPORT OF ARTICLES INCLUDED ON THE U.S. MUNITIONS LIST (22 CFR 121-128).

QUESTION: WERE THESE HELICOPTER PARTS MILITARY EQUIPMENT?

SUGGESTED REPLY: THERE WAS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THIS PROPOSED SHIPMENT OF HELICOPTER PARTS INCLUDED ITEMS ON THE U.S. MUNITIONS LIST. EQUIPMENT ON U.S. MUNITIONS LIST MUST NOT BE EXPORTED FROM THE U.S. UNTIL A LICENSE HAS BEEN OBTAINED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. TO DATE, THE PATTERSON COMPANY HAS NOT APPLIED FOR SUCH AN EXPORT LICENSE FROM THE DEPARTMENT.

QUESTIONS: WHAT ELSE DOES THE DEPARTMENT KNOW ABOUT THIS MATTER?

SUGGESTED REPLY: THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE THAT THE PATTERSON COMPANY HAS BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR TO ESTABLISH A HELICOPTER ASSEMBLY PLANT IN THAT COUNTRY.

QUESTION: IS IT TRUE THAT L. CORDON COOPER IS INVOLVED IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HELICOPTER ASSEMBLY PLANT?

SUGGESTED REPLY: WE HAVE HEARD MR. COOPER'S NAME MENTIONED IN CONNECTION WITH THE PATTERSON COMPANY AND THE HELICOPTER ASSEMBLY PLANT, BUT YOU WILL HAVE TO ASK THE PATTERSON COMPANY AS TO MR. COOPER'S ROLE, IF ANY, IN THIS MATTER. KISSINGER

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